



The children of Joseph Stacy Murdock, first bishop of Heber City. Most of them spent their lives in Wasatch County. Seated, left to right, Ann Coleman; Margaret Murdock; Ellen C. (Lottie) Wright; Jane Helton. Back row, left to right, Parley A. Murdock; Andrew Murdock; Alva Murdock; William Murdock; David N. Murdock; John H. Murdock; and Frank Murdock.

ing program for leadership. Those of experienced leadership quickly trained their counselors and local brethren and then were often called to other areas, leaving Church administration in the hands of those they had trained.

Bishop Murdock chose men of the area as his counselors. These were John W. Witt and Thomas Rasband with John Hamilton as ward clerk. In addition to presiding over Heber Ward, these men also directed Church affairs throughout the valley.

Under Bishop Murdock's direction, presiding elders were appointed in the communities that by this time were large enough to meet separately. John Harvey was named at Center Creek in 1861 and Sidney Epperso was called as presiding elder in 1862 for the upper Snake Creek settlement. In 1864 David Van Wagoner was sustained as presiding elder for the lower Snake Creek area and John Watkins of Midway was later appointed to preside in Charleston and traveled there to hold meetings on Sunday.

The calling of Bishop Murdock in Heber Ward lasted until 1866 when he was called by President Young to move to Southern Utah in an attempt to raise cotton there. During his six years in Wasatch County he gained the love and respect of the people for his kindness and gener-